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ABSTRACT

This report presents detailed data on national private school enrollment and tuition trends, collected primarily from governmental sources. Six tables and three figures provide statistical data. An overview describes the availability and analysis problems concerning these data, for example, the lack of information on increasingly attended non-Catholic religiously affiliated schools. Data analysis includes total enrollment (with trends from 1970-85), proportion of students attending private schools, with attendance by region and metropolitan status. Private school students' are charted by family income, control of school (e.g., religiously affiliated), attendance, parental educational attainment, and race/ethnicity. Tuition and fees since 1979 are presented according to the foregoing categories. The report includes the following data implications: (1) Greater diversity in types of private schools attended occurs as the proportion of enrollment in Catholic schools descreases and the proportion in other religiously affiliated schools increases. (2) Diversity in racial/ethnic background presents mixed trends; fewer black students but about the same number of Hispanics attended private schools in 1985 as in 1979. (3) Relative sizes of private and public school sectors have changed little in recent years. (4) Private schools' tuitions increased considerably faster than the cost of living between 1979-85, especially for church-related schools. Appendices provide statistical methodologies, reliability, standard errors, and references. (CJH)

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Private School Enrollment and Tuition Trends

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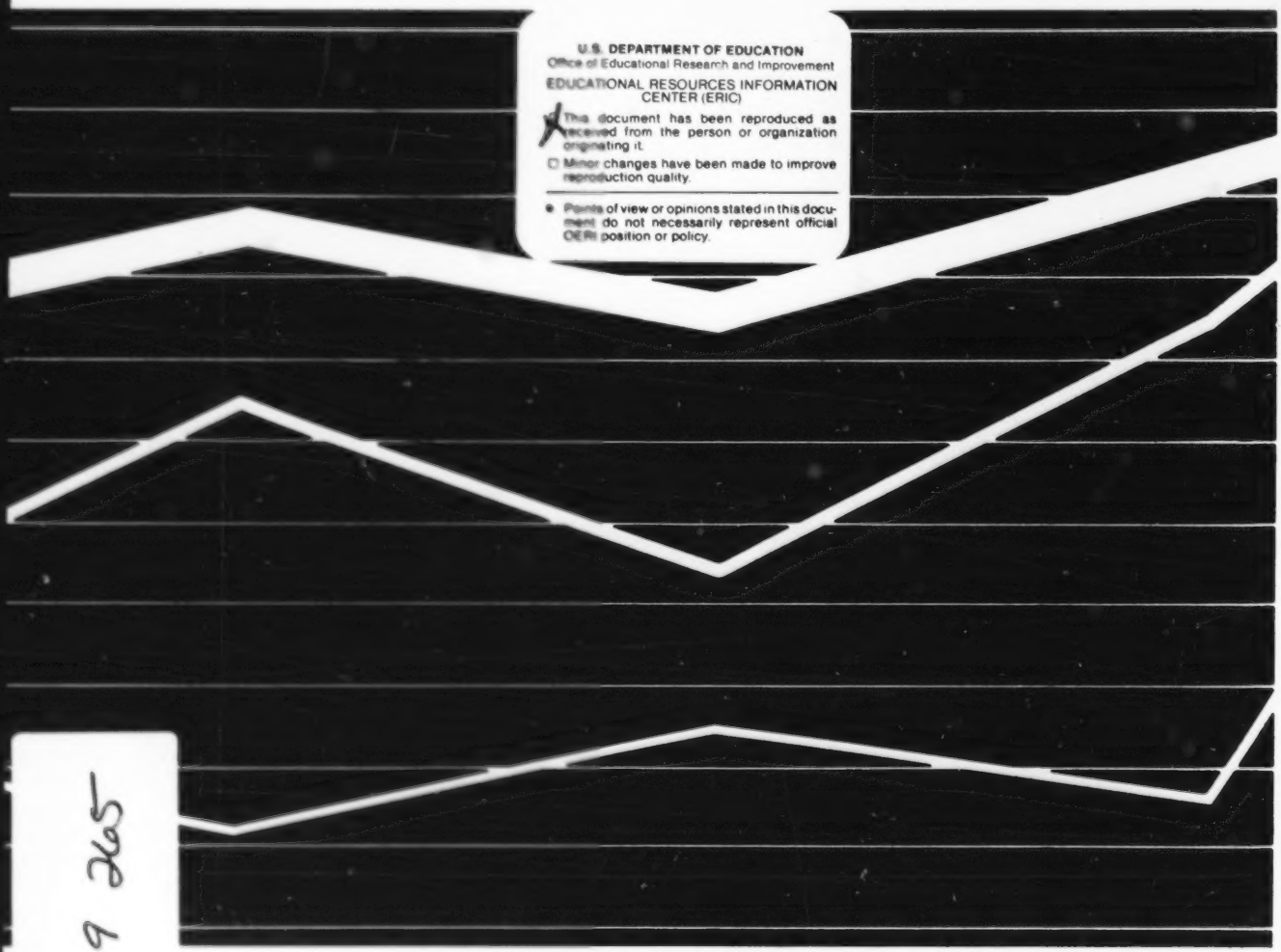

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Issue Paper

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Center for Education Statistics

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Private School Enrollment and Tuition Trends

by Mary Frase Williams

Overview

Private schools are an integral part of American education, and no discussion of the condition of American education would be complete without including private schools. They educate a substantial number of students, offer a wide range of educational programs and philosophies, and provide alternatives to the public schools. Unfortunately, there is considerably less national data available about private schools than about public schools. In particular, there is relatively little information about the diversity among different types of private schools. In some cases data are available for comparing religiously-affiliated with nonreligiously-affiliated schools or Catholic schools with nonCatholic religiously-affiliated schools, but generally there is scant information about differences among nonCatholic religiously-affiliated schools, whose enrollments have grown in the past 10 years. The Center for Statistics is currently upgrading its own data collection on private schools and is working with the national associations for private schools—including fundamentalist and evangelical Christian schools—to utilize the data they collect about their member schools.

This paper discusses recent trends in private school enrollment and tuition levels, two topics for which there are considerable national data available over time and which relate to a number of salient policy issues. The paper examines trends in private school enrollment—total enrollment and by level and control of school. In addition, variations in private school enrollment rates[1] across regions, community types, and family background characteristics are discussed. Similar analyses are presented for trends in private school tuition. The major findings are:

Enrollment

- The two national data sources—Center for Statistics and Bureau of the Census—on private school enrollment have not agreed upon the number and proportion of private school students in recent years. The variation may be related to differences in the way the data are collected by the two agencies.

- The Center for Statistics reported that there were 5.7 million private school students in 1983-84 and that 12.6 percent of American students attended private schools in that year.

- The Bureau of the Census reported considerably lower numbers and proportions of private school students. Census' data show the percentage of students in kindergarten through 12th grade attending private schools as approximately 11 percent in 1985, which is the same as it was in 1970.

- The proportion of all students attending private schools decreased in the first half of the 1970's and has increased since 1979.

- Most children who attend private schools are in church-related schools—approximately 86 percent in 1979, 1982, and 1985. The proportion of children attending Catholic schools has declined in recent years while the proportion attending other church-related schools has increased.

- The vast majority of private school students are from low- and middle-income families.

- The likelihood that a child will attend a private school increases as family income and education rise.

- Hispanic children are as likely as whites to attend private schools, when family income is taken into account. However, black children generally are less likely to attend private schools than white children, even when family income is taken into account.

- According to the data collected by the Bureau of the Census, the number and proportion of private school students who are black have declined since 1979. Over that period the number of Hispanic students remained approximately the same.

Tuition

- Tuition and fees are higher for students in high school than elementary school, nonchurch-related than church-related schools, and other religiously-affiliated schools than Catholic schools.

- Tuition and fees were under $1,000 for two-thirds and under $500 for one-third of all elementary school children attending church-related schools in 1985.

- Since 1979, tuition and fees in private schools have increased considerably faster than the cost-of-living.

- Families of black elementary school students pay higher tuition and fees than families of white students. One factor contributing to that pattern may be blacks paying higher tuition in parish-operated Catholic schools because they are nonparishioners.

- High income families are considerably more likely to pay very high tuition than are low- and middle-income families.

Implications

- Greater diversity in the types of private schools children attend is occurring as the proportion of private school enrollment in Catholic schools decreases and the proportion in other religiously-affiliated schools increases.

- According to data collected by the Bureau of the Census, there are mixed trends relative to diversity in the racial/ethnic backgrounds of private school students. There are fewer black students but about the same number of Hispanics attending private schools in 1985 as in 1979.

- The relative sizes of the public and private school sectors for elementary and secondary education have changed very little in recent years according to data from the Bureau of the Census.

Data

There are two major sources of national data on private school enrollment, the annual School Enrollment Supplement to the October Current Population Survey (CPS) and intermittent Private School Surveys conducted by the Center for Statistics (formerly the National Center for Education Statistics) in the U.S. Department of Education. The two sources sometimes produce differing estimates of the total number and proportion of private school students. (See the Appendix for a more extensive discussion of the two surveys.)

The Center for Statistics (CS) has periodically surveyed private schools to gather a variety of information, including enrollment data. (Only schools that contain a first grade or above are included in these surveys.) Prior to the 1983 Private School Survey, the Center used lists of private schools as the basis for conducting the survey. The methodology for the 1983 survey was changed in two respects: the survey was changed from an universe to a sample survey, and an area frame was used to augment the list of schools. The area frame did uncover a considerable number of private schools that had not previously been included in the list of schools. A similar approach was used for the Center's 1985 Private School Survey, but the results from that survey were not yet available when this publication went to press. Because of the 1983 change in methodology, Center for Statistics data cannot be used to examine trends in private school enrollment over time.

The Bureau of the Census collects data on private schools annually and the methodology has changed very little over time. Census gathers information about private schools through a household survey, the Current Population Survey (CPS). The differences in methodology—a household survey as compared to a survey of institutions—between the Bureau of the Census and the Center for Statistics may account for some of the differences in estimated numbers of private school students. CS's change in methodology may also be related to the differences, since the two sets of estimates were much closer prior to the 1983 change.

Because the CPS data are comparable over time, they are used in this paper for the analysis of trends in private school enrollment. Wherever Center for Statistics data reveal different trends or can supplement the CPS data, they are cited as well. Except for the initial discussion of enrollment levels, the presentation is limited to elementary and secondary schools, grades 1-12, since the patterns and dynamics below first grade are somewhat different.

Private School Enrollment

Total enrollment

CS estimated there were 5.7 million private school students in 1983, with 5.0 million in grades 1-12. The CPS estimate for 1983 private school enrollment in grades 1-12—4.2 million—was considerably lower than the CS estimate. The CPS estimate for kinder-

garten enrollment in private schools was higher than the CS estimate—656 and 427 thousand respectively (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b).[2]

CS estimates of the proportion of all students attending private elementary and secondary schools were higher than CPS estimates for 1983. Those estimates were:

- For grades K-12, 12.6 percent for CS and 10.9 percent for CPS.
- For grades 1-12, 12.0 percent for CS and 10.9 percent for CPS.

According to CPS data, the proportion of all students in kindergarten through 12th grade enrolled in private schools was 10.9 percent in 1970 and 1985, but between those two years it varied considerably (Table 1).

- Both private and public school enrollments declined in the early 1970's, but private school enrollment declined more rapidly. In the fall of 1974 the proportion of private school students was only 9.8 percent.
- Between 1974 and 1979, the proportion of private school students varied erratically, but since 1979, it has risen again.[3]

While the percent of private school students had returned to the 1970 level in the mid-1980's, the number of such students had not according to CPS data.

- There were nearly 14 percent fewer private school students in the fall of 1985 than there had been in 1970. The number of public school students also declined by 14 percent over that period.
- In the first half of the 1980's, while public school enrollment was still declining, private school enrollment in grades K to 12 stabilized.

Based on the 1983 methodology, CS data indicated a growth in private school enrollment of 7.5 percent between 1980 and 1983. However, CS does not have separate figures for private school enrollment in nursery school, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 12 for 1980. Therefore, the 7.5 percent increase includes

Table 1

Private school enrollment trends: 1970 to 1985

October of year	K-12 enrollment (In thousands)			Private school enrollment as a percentage of total K-12 enrollment
	Total	Public	Private	
1970	51,848	46,193	5,655	10.9
1971	51,953	46,575	5,378	10.4
1972	50,546	45,343	5,203	10.3
1973	49,890	44,945	4,945	9.9
1974	49,825	44,958	4,867	9.8
1975	49,522	44,521	5,001	10.1
1976	49,006	44,202	4,804	9.8
1977	48,178	43,153	5,025	10.4
1978	46,954	41,976	4,978	10.6
1979	46,006	41,343	4,663	10.1
1980	45,181	—	—	—
1981	45,598	40,897	4,701	10.3
1982	44,834	40,132	4,702	10.5
1983	44,569	39,701	4,868	10.9
1984	44,099	39,793	4,306	9.8
1985	44,660	39,788	4,872	10.9

—Not available.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1984* (Current Population Reports, Series P–20, No. 404), 1985 and unpublished tabulations.

growth in nursery school enrollment, which is growing much faster than K-12 or 1-12 enrollment. CS also shows a growth of 13 percent in the number of private schools between 1980 and 1983 (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b).

The remainder of this paper is based on CPS data except where there is a specific reference to data from the Center for Statistics.

Grade-level. The portion of total enrollment accounted for by private schools varies by grade level. The proportion of students attending private schools is highest at the preschool level, and as children progress through school, private schools educate a decreasing percentage of all students.

- In 1985, the proportion of students attending private schools was 65.7 percent for nursery school, 15.6 percent for kindergarten, 11.4 percent for grades 1-8 and 8.7 percent for grades 9-12.

- Private school enrollment rates by level were very similar in 1985 and 1970. However, there has been a recent increase in the proportion of high school students attending private schools, from 7.4 percent of all students in 1979 to 8.7 percent in 1985.

Trends in the number of private school students differ by level. At the elementary grades (grades 1-8), which account for the bulk of private school students, enrollment dropped during the 1970's by approximately 23 percent, but has remained relatively stable since 1980. Kindergarten and high school enrollments have changed very little since 1970. Enrollment in private nursery schools, on the other hand, has grown throughout the period, more than doubling between 1970 and 1985. That growth reflects the rising rates of total preschool enrollment (Pendleton, 1986), since the proportion of nursery school students enrolled in private schools has not changed.

Type of private school. There are many different kinds of private elementary and secondary schools—day and boarding schools, religiously-affiliated and secular schools, coeducational and single-sex schools. Unfortunately, little comparable national data over time exists on enrollment trends by type of private school. Since 1979 the Bureau of the Census has periodically asked whether the private school a child was attending was "church-related" or not and the Center for Statistics classified private schools by control—Catholic, other religiously-affiliated, and unaffiliated—in the 1983 survey. While there are considerable differences among the church-related schools, little national data are available to shed light on this diversity.

The vast majority of children in private schools attend schools which are religiously affiliated. While the proportion of private school students in church-related schools has not declined in recent years, the composition of church-related schools has changed.

- In 1979, 1982, and 1985, approximately 86 percent of all private school students in grades 1-12 were enrolled in church-related schools.

- Church-related schools account for lower proportions of private school students below the first grade level—72 percent for kindergarten and 39 percent for nursery school in 1985.

Catholic schools have historically accounted for most students in church-related schools, but their relative position has been changing in the recent past. Catholic school enrollment has been declining, while enrollment in other types of religiously-affiliated schools has been increasing (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b; Cooper, McLaughlin, and Manno, 1983).

- The proportion of all private school students attending Catholic schools was 64 percent in 1980 and that percentage declined to 56 percent in 1983 (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b). Catholic schools enrolled 87 percent of all private school students in 1965-66 (Catterall, 1985).

- The proportion of students in other religiously-affiliated schools rose from 21 to 25 percent of all private school students between 1980 and 1983 (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b).

- According to Cooper (1985), the schools with the highest growth rates in enrollment in recent years among the other religiously-affiliated schools have been evangelical, Calvinist, and Lutheran schools. Also showing considerable growth have been independent schools and those serving special education students.

- According to CS estimates, the number of other religiously-affiliated schools increased

approximately 20 percent between 1980 and 1983 and the number of nonreligiously-affiliated schools increased nearly 30 percent over the same period (U.S. Department of Education, 1984b).

Region and metropolitan status. Patterns of private school enrollment vary by region and type of community. In recent years regional differences in private school enrollment rates have remained about the same, while differences among types of communities have narrowed (Table 2).

- Historically, private schools have educated a higher proportion of all elementary and secondary students in central cities than in the suburbs or nonmetropolitan areas.

- Those differences have been decreasing since 1979 as private school enrollment rates have been declining in the cities, and increasing elsewhere. This pattern may reflect closing of Catholic schools in urban centers and the expansion of evangelical and fundamentalist schools in suburban and nonmetropolitan areas (Catterall, 1985).

- Private schools educate a higher proportion of students in the Northeast and North Central regions than in the South and West.

- During the 1970's, regional differences in private school enrollment rates decreased, as the rates increased in the South and West, while decreasing in the Northeast and North Central regions. The trend of narrowing regional differences did not continue into the 1980's (Table 2).

The relative importance of church-related schools differs by region, while differences among cities, suburbs, and nonmetropolitan areas in the proportion of private school students attending church-related schools are minor.

- In 1979, religiously-affiliated schools accounted for a higher proportion of private school students in the Northeast and North Central regions than in the South and West.

- Between 1979 and 1985, the proportion of church-related students declined in the Northeast and increased in the North Central region.

- In 1985, nearly all private school students in the North Central region attended a church-related school (95 percent), whereas that proportion was considerably lower in the other three regions (78 to 84 percent).

Table 2

Proportion of all students attending private schools, by region and metropolitan status

Metropolitan status and region	Proportion of October enrollment, grades 1-12, attending private schools			
	1970	1979	1982	1985
U.S.	10.5	9.8	10.0	10.5
Region:				
Northeast	17.1	12.5	13.3	14.2
North Central	13.4	11.5	11.7	12.4
South	5.7	7.8	7.4	8.2
West	6.0	7.9	8.4	8.2
Metropolitan status:				
Central city	16.4	16.0	13.7	13.8
Suburb	11.6	10.0	11.0	11.9
Nonmetropolitan	5.5	5.0	5.9	6.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Private School Enrollment, Tuition, and Enrollment Trends: October 1979* (Current Population Reports, Series P–23, No. 121), 1982 and unpublished tabulations; Bianchi, S., Private School Enrollment: Trends and Debates, *Research in Sociology of Education and Socialization, 3,* 1982.

Characteristics of private school students

Family income. While on average, students attending private schools come from more affluent families than public school students, most private school students are from low- and middle-income families (Figure 1).

- A majority of both public and private school students came from middle-income ($15,000 to $49,999) families in 1985—56 percent of public school students and 63 percent of private school students.

- A substantial proportion—one-seventh—of private school students came from low-income families (less than $15,000). One-third of public school students came from low-income families.

- Approximately twice as many private school students came from high-income families ($50,000 or more) as public school students—23 percent vs. 11 percent.

- There is a considerable difference between church-related and nonchurch-related private schools in terms of the family incomes of their students (Figure 1). Family incomes of the students in nonchurch-related schools are much higher than for students in church-related schools, but only a small portion (less than 15 percent) of private school students attend nonchurch-related schools.

The likelihood that a child will be enrolled in a private school rises with family income (Table 3), although even at the highest income levels, most students attend public schools. The relationship between income and private school attendance is particularly strong for nonchurch-related schools.

- In 1985, the proportion of children in grades 1-12 enrolled in church-related schools rose from 3 percent when family income was below $7,500 to 17 percent when income was $75,000 and above.

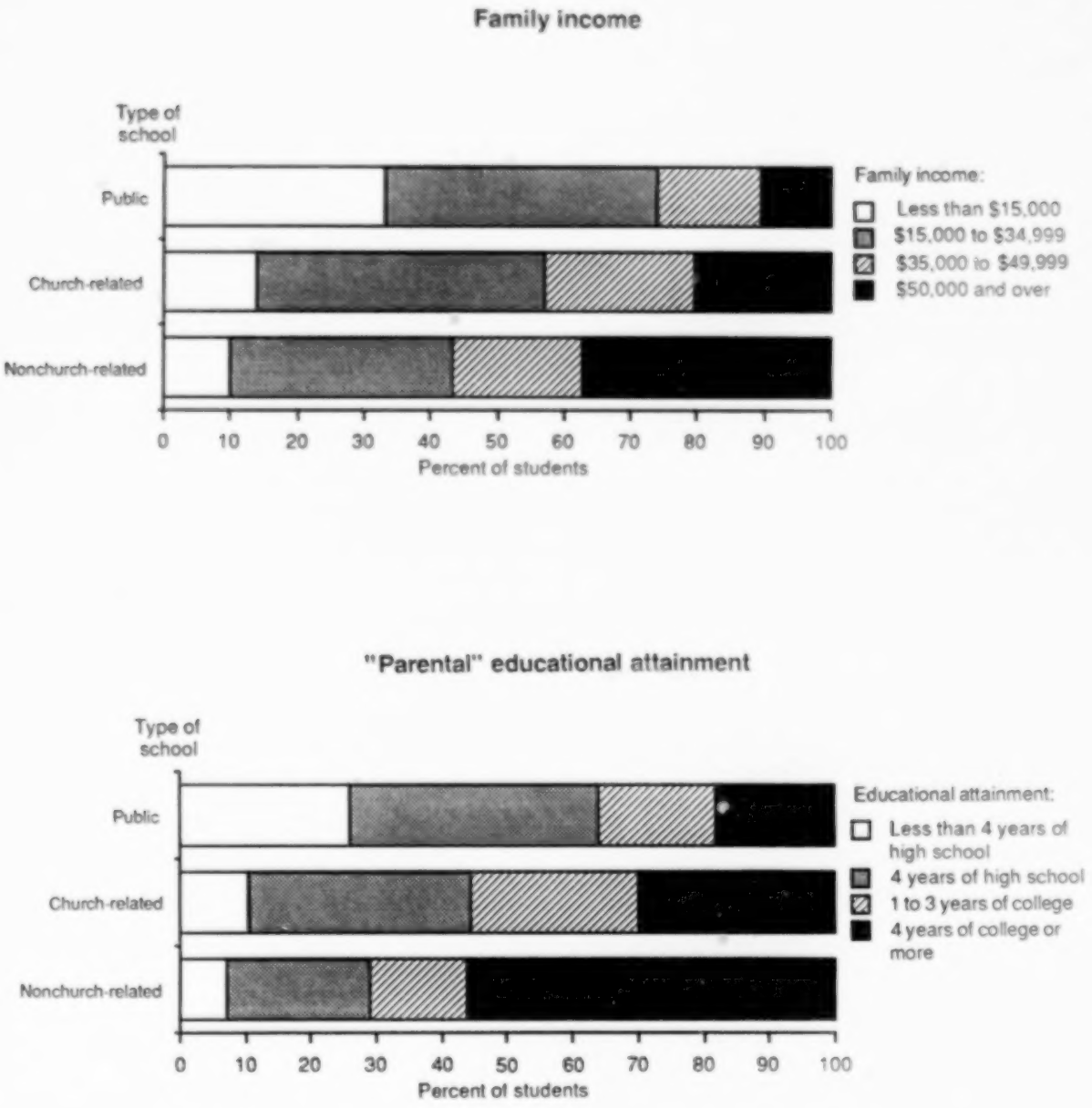
Table 3

Enrollment rates in private elementary and secondary schools by race/ethnicity, family income, and control of school: October 1985

Family income	Proportion of children in grades 1 to 12 attending private schools					
	All children			White		
	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related
Total[2]	10.5	8.5	1.4	11.9	9.8	1.5
Less than $7,500	3.5	2.8	.5	4.9	4.1	.5
$7,500 to $14,999	5.7	4.7	.4	6.7	5.7	.5
$15,000 to $24,999	8.6	7.2	.8	9.4	8.2	.7
$25,000 to $34,999	13.1	11.0	1.5	13.5	11.3	1.5
$35,000 to $49,999	13.8	11.8	1.6	14.5	12.4	1.7
$50,000 and over	20.0	14.8	4.3	20.1	15.1	4.2
	Black			Hispanic[3]		
Family income	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related
Total[2]	3.7	2.4	.7	6.7	6.1	.3
Less than $7,500	1.5	.8	.4	3.0	2.4	.6
$7,500 to $14,999	2.7	1.8	.2	5.1	5.1	.0
$15,000 to $24,999	3.8	2.5	.7	8.0	7.1	.2
$25,000 to $34,999	8.4	6.3	.8	10.7	9.1	1.1
$35,000 to $49,999	7.4	4.5	1.9	13.1	13.1	.0
$50,000 and over	14.7	9.3	4.7	20.2	20.2	.0

[1] Includes some students for whom control of the private school was not reported.
[2] Includes some students for whom family income was not reported.
[3] Hispanics may be of any race.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 School Enrollment Supplement to Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

FIGURE 1 -- Proportion of elementary and secondary students by household income, educational attainment, and control of school: 1985



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1985 October School Enrollment Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

- The proportions of children attending nonchurch-related schools in 1985 were less than 1 percent if family income was less than $25,000, less than 2 percent if family income was between $25,000 and $74,999, and 10 percent if family income was at least $75,000.

- Most private school students at all income levels attend church-related schools, but the likelihood that the private school will be nonchurch-related increases with family income. In 1985 only 10 percent of private school students from families with incomes below $25,000 were enrolled in a nonchurch-related school as compared to 37 percent of those from families with incomes of $75,000 or more.

Bianchi (1982) reported no clear trend during the 1970's toward increasing or decreasing differences between public and private schools in family income levels. The same was also true between 1979 and 1985. The median family income for households containing elementary and secondary school students increased between 1979 and 1985 for students in all types of schools. However, there was little change in the relative levels of family income of public and private schools.[4]

The likelihood that a child will attend a private school also increases with the educational attainment of his or her parents. The differences among types of schools in "parental" educational backgrounds were similar to those for family income in 1985.[5]

- In households where the "parent" had not completed high school, 5 percent of the children in grades 1-12 attended a private school.

- If the "parent" had at least a bachelor's degree, 18 percent of elementary and secondary school students attended a private school.

- The same percentage—56 percent—of students in public and private schools had a "parent" with a moderate amount of education (finished high school but less than a bachelor's degree). The proportion of public school students whose "parent" was not a high school graduate was more than double that for private school students—26 vs. 11 percent.

- The "parent" of 30 percent of the students in church-related schools had at least a bachelor's degree, while 18 percent of public school students had such highly educated "parents."

- The relatively few students attending nonchurch-related private schools came from households with much higher levels of educational attainment than children attending church-related schools (Figure 1). The "parent" of more than half (56 percent) the students in nonchurch-related schools had at least a bachelor's degree.

Race/ethnicity. Black students are much less likely to attend private schools than whites. Hispanic children are more likely than blacks, but less likely than whites, to attend a private school (Figure 2).

- Private school enrollment by black youngsters is low primarily because of low enrollment rates in church-related schools—only 2.4 percent of all black children attended church-related schools in 1985 as compared to 9.8 percent of whites and 6.1 percent of Hispanics.

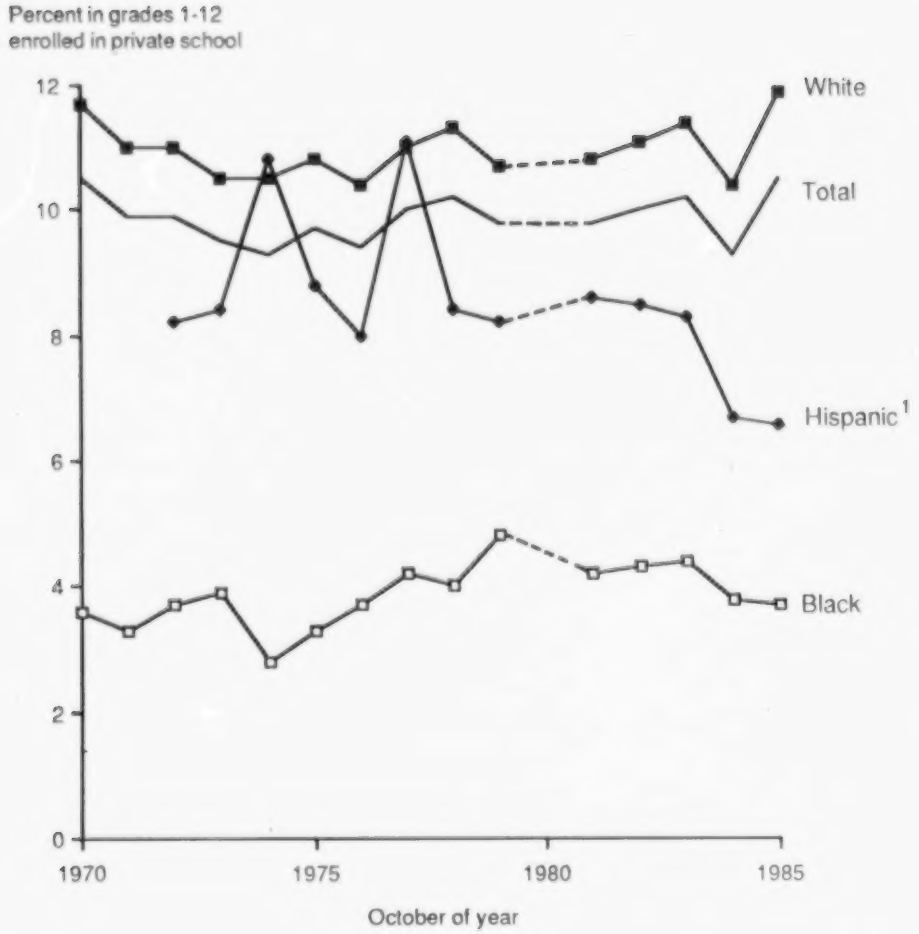
Very few blacks and Hispanics living outside of metropolitan areas attend private schools.

- In 1985, private school enrollment rates were about .5 percent for blacks and 2 percent for Hispanics in nonmetropolitan areas. Approximately 5 percent of blacks living in central cities and in the suburbs attended private schools, while for Hispanic children, private school enrollment rates were between 7 and 8 percent in central cities and the suburbs.

One factor contributing to low private school attendance by blacks and Hispanics is lower family incomes than whites, since private school attendance increases with family income. The differences in private school attendance between whites and Hispanics are largely a function of differing family income levels. Enrollment rates for whites and Hispanics at the same income level did not differ significantly in 1985 (Table 3). However, differences in private school enrollment rates between blacks and whites generally remain.[6]

The number of black students in private schools increased during the late 1970's, and during that period the gap between blacks and whites in private school enrollment rates narrowed. However, according to CPS, the number of black private school students declined by 25 percent between 1979 and 1985. As a

FIGURE 2 -- Private elementary and secondary enrollment as a proportion of total enrollment, by race/ethnicity



1. Hispanics may be of any race.

NOTE: Data for 1980 not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Private School Enrollment, Tuition, and Enrollment Trends: October 1979; School Enrollment -- Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1984* and 1985 October School Enrollment Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

result, the black enrollment rate—and the difference between blacks and whites—was approximately the same in 1985 as in 1970 (Figure 2).

- Between 1970 and 1979, the number of black elementary and secondary students attending private schools increased by over 30 percent (U.S. Department of Commerce, 1985). Black enrollment in Catholic schools increased over 20 percent between 1970 and 1980, while total enrollment in Catholic schools was declining by 30 percent (National Catholic Educational Association, 1986b).

- The decline in black attendance in private schools since 1979 has largely been due to a decline in black enrollment rates in church-related schools—from 4.2 percent of all black students in grades 1 to 12 in 1979 to 2.4 percent in 1985.

- It is unclear in what types of church-related schools black enrollment has declined. Data from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) (1986b) indicate that black enrollment in Catholic schools declined about one percent between 1980-81 and 1984-85. The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) (1986) reported a 13 percent increase in black students between 1981-82 and 1985-86.

According to CPS data, there have been no consistent trends over time for Hispanic enrollment in private schools. In part, this reflects the small CPS sample for Hispanics, which results in large standard errors so that even large differences may not be statistically significant. Individual private school associations have reported considerable increases in both Hispanic and Asian enrollments in member schools.

- NCEA (1986b) has reported considerable growth in Hispanic enrollment in Catholic schools since 1970, especially prior to 1980—18 percent between 1970 and 1980 and 3.5 percent between 1980 and 1985.

- NAIS (1986) reported an increase of 7 percent in Hispanic enrollment between 1981 and 1985.

- Both NCEA and NAIS report increased enrollment in member schools by Asian-Americans of approximately 50 percent in the first half of the 1980's.

Blacks represent a smaller proportion of private than of public school students, and that proportion has declined since 1979.

- Approximately 5.5 percent of private school students were black in 1985, as compared to 7.5 percent in 1979. Among public school students, the percentage of black students was slightly less than 17 percent in 1985 and had not changed since 1979.

- The proportion of students in church-related schools who were black decreased from 7.6 to 4.5 percent between 1979 and 1985.

Hispanics constituted 6 percent of private school students in 1985 and 10 percent of public school students.

Tuition Levels

The Bureau of the Census has collected data on private school tuition and fees every 3 years since 1979. The general patterns related to tuition levels were the same in 1979, 1982, and 1985. Tuition is higher in high schools than in elementary schools and in nonchurch-related schools than in church-related schools (Table 4).

- In 1985, tuition for one-third of the elementary students attending church-related schools was under $500 and it was between $500 and $1,000 for another third. Over sixty percent of all students in private elementary schools attended a church-related school where tuition and fees were less than $1,000 in 1985.

- For elementary students in nonchurch-related schools, tuition and fees were less than $1,500 for about one-third of the students and over $3,000 for more than a third.

- At the high school level in 1985, one half of the students in church-related schools attended a school where the tuition and fees were less than $1,500. Tuition and fees exceeded $3,000 for over half the high school students enrolled in nonchurch-related schools.

The Center for Statistics also collects data on private school tuition and compiles the information separately for Catholic and other religiously-affiliated schools.

Table 4

Tuition and fees in private schools, by level and control: October 1985

Level and control of school	Proportion of students[1] with tuition and fees of:					Median tuition and fees	Mean tuition and fees
	Less than $500	$500-$999	$1,000-$1,499	$1,500-$1,999	$2,000-and over		
Elementary[2] (Grades 1–8)	29.8	33.0	19.3	5.7	12.2	$ 774	$1,046
Church-related	33.3	37.0	19.2	5.5	5.0	692	799
Nonchurch-related	6.7	6.4	19.0	7.0	60.6	2,282	2,709
Secondary[2] (Grades 9-12)	2.8	10.1	31.4	25.5	30.2	1,569	2,003
Church-related	2.7	11.3	35.2	27.8	23.1	1,508	1,618
Nonchurch-related	3.0	4.2	12.0	13.3	67.5	3,571	4,042

[1] Percent calculated on total number of students for whom tuition levels were reported. The non-response rate on the tuition item for the categories in the table ranged from 10 to 18 percent. The response rate was higher for nonchurch-related schools than church-related schools.
[2] Includes some students for whom control of the private school was not reported.

NOTE: May not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 School Enrollment Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

Such data were gathered for the 1983-84 and 1985-86 school years, but the 1985-86 data were not yet available when this report went to press. For the 1983-84 school year, tuition in Catholic schools was considerably lower than in other religiously-affiliated schools (U.S. Department of Education, 1986b).

- Median tuition for the 1983-84 school year was approximately 75 percent higher in other religiously-affiliated schools than in Catholic schools.

Tuition and fees in private schools have risen more sharply than the cost-of-living since 1979 according to data from the Current Population Survey. For church-related schools, the increases have been greater in elementary schools than in high schools and greater between 1979 and 1982 than between 1982 and 1985. For nonchurch-related schools, there has been relatively little difference in tuition trends between the two time periods.[7]

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 48 percent between 1979 and 1985. Median private school tuition and fees increased 103 percent for elementary school students and 69 percent for high school students in that period.[8]

- The increases in church-related tuition and fees between 1979 and 1982 were 74 percent for elementary school students and 37 percent for high school students. The CPI rose 33 percent in that period.

- For the 1982-85 period, tuition and fees for church-related schools increased 22 percent for both elementary and high school pupils. The increase in the cost-of-living was 11 percent between 1982 and 1985.

- Tuition increases for nonchurch-related students were 78 percent for elementary students and over 100 percent for high school students between 1979 and 1985.

- Differences in tuition and fees between students in church- and nonchurch-related high schools increased between 1979 and 1985, due to a much higher rate of increase for students in nonchurch-related schools over the period—over 100 percent compared to 67 percent for students in church-related schools.

Region and metropolitan status. Median tuition levels in private schools vary by region and metropolitan status, and that variation is somewhat different for elementary and secondary school students (Table 5). For students in grades 1-8, median tuition and fees are lower in the Northeast and North Central regions than in the South and West and higher in the suburbs than elsewhere. For high school stu-

dents, median tuition is higher in the West than in the other regions and lower in nonmetropolitan than in metropolitan areas.

- In 1985 tuition and fees for a much larger proportion of elementary school students were less than $1,000 in the Northeast (74 percent) and the North Central (80 percent) regions than in the South (44 percent) and West (46 percent).

- The regional differences may reflect in part differences in enrollment patterns. Higher proportions of students in the Northeast and North Central regions attend Catholic elementary schools, which tend to have lower tuitions.

- At the high school level, very few students attend private schools where the tuition is less than $1,000 and there is little regional variation in this pattern—from 10 percent in the West to 15 percent in the North Central region. However, there are regional differences in the proportion of students for whom tuition is very high, $3,000 or more—from 21 percent in the Northeast to 4 percent in the North Central region in 1985.

- There is considerable variation in high school tuition levels by metropolitan status. Thirty-eight percent of students in nonmetropolitan areas pay private school tuition and fees of less than $1,000 as opposed to only 6 percent in the suburbs and 9 percent living in central cities.

Race/ethnicity. For elementary pupils attending private schools, blacks have tended in recent years to pay somewhat more in tuition and fees than have whites (Figure 3).

- In 1982 and 1985 the proportion of black pupils for whom tuition and fees were less than $500 was considerably below that for whites (and Hispanics in 1982). This was true for all private elementary schools and for church-related elementary schools.[9]

- In 1985, tuition and fees exceeded $1,000 for over half (53 percent) of the black private school elementary students, but only 36 per-

Table 5

Median private school tuition and fees, by level, control, region, and metropolitan status: 1985

Region and metropolitan status	Median tuition and fees					
	Elementary students (Grades 1–8)			Secondary students (Grades 9–12)		
	Total[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related	Total[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related
U.S.	$ 774	$692	$2,282	$1,569	$1,508	$3,571
Region:						
Northeast	573	515	3,581	1,617	1,522	—
North Central	561	545	—	1,523	1,509	—
South	1,074	978	1,627	1,451	1,315	—
West	1,034	978	—	2,014	1,861	—
Metropolitan status:						
Central city	737	671	2,803	1,566	1,528	—
Suburb	834	748	2,803	1,700	1,591	5,211
Nonmetropolitan	679	620	—	1,079	1,043	—

—Cell size too small (less than 75,000) for a reliable estimate.
[1] Includes some students for whom control of the private school was not reported.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 School Enrollment Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

cent of white students and 24 percent of Hispanic students.

- In elementary schools, families of white and Hispanic students paid about the same tuition and fees in 1985.

Two factors that may help explain the racial/ethnic patterns are tuition policies in Catholic schools and the way that CPS collects data on tuition.

- Blacks attending Catholic schools tend to be nonCatholics, which is not the case for Hispanics or whites (National Catholic Educational Association, 1986b). Parish schools often charge higher tuition to nonparishioners, so blacks attending such schools would tend to pay higher tuition than whites and Hispanics.

- Instructions to CPS interviewers for the tuition item on the October Supplement are that information on tuition and fees should exclude scholarships or subsidies. Therefore, the CPS tuition figures may overstate the net cost to a family of sending their child to a private school. If black children are more likely to receive scholarships or some other form of subsidy than other students, then the tuition differentials between blacks and others would be reduced if scholarships were taken into account.

Family income. The level of tuition a family pays to send a child to private school varies with family income, but the relationship between income and tuition levels has not been particularly strong in the 1980's. Income may have a larger impact on whether a child attends private school than on how much tuition the family pays when the child does attend. The 1982 and 1985 CPS surveys used the same income and tuition categories, and in both cases, the general pattern is similar (Table 6).

- There is not much difference across income categories in the distribution of tuition levels, except for the highest income categories—$50,000 or more.

- One possible explanation for the lack of greater variation across income levels is the fact that CPS data reflect gross and not net costs to the family of sending the child to private school. If lower-income families are more likely to receive scholarships or other subsidies, then the differential between gross costs and net costs may be greater for lower-income families. If data were available on net costs—out-of-pocket costs, the relationship between family income and tuition levels might be stronger.

- In 1982 and 1985, families with incomes above $50,000 were more likely to send their child to a private school where tuition and fees exceeded $2,000, at both the elementary and secondary school levels. As noted earlier, relatively few private school students—less than one-fourth—come from such high-income families.

Implications

The trends in private school enrollments and tuitions presented above have a variety of implications both for private schools and for American education in general. The implications for private schools are discussed below, followed by the more general implications.

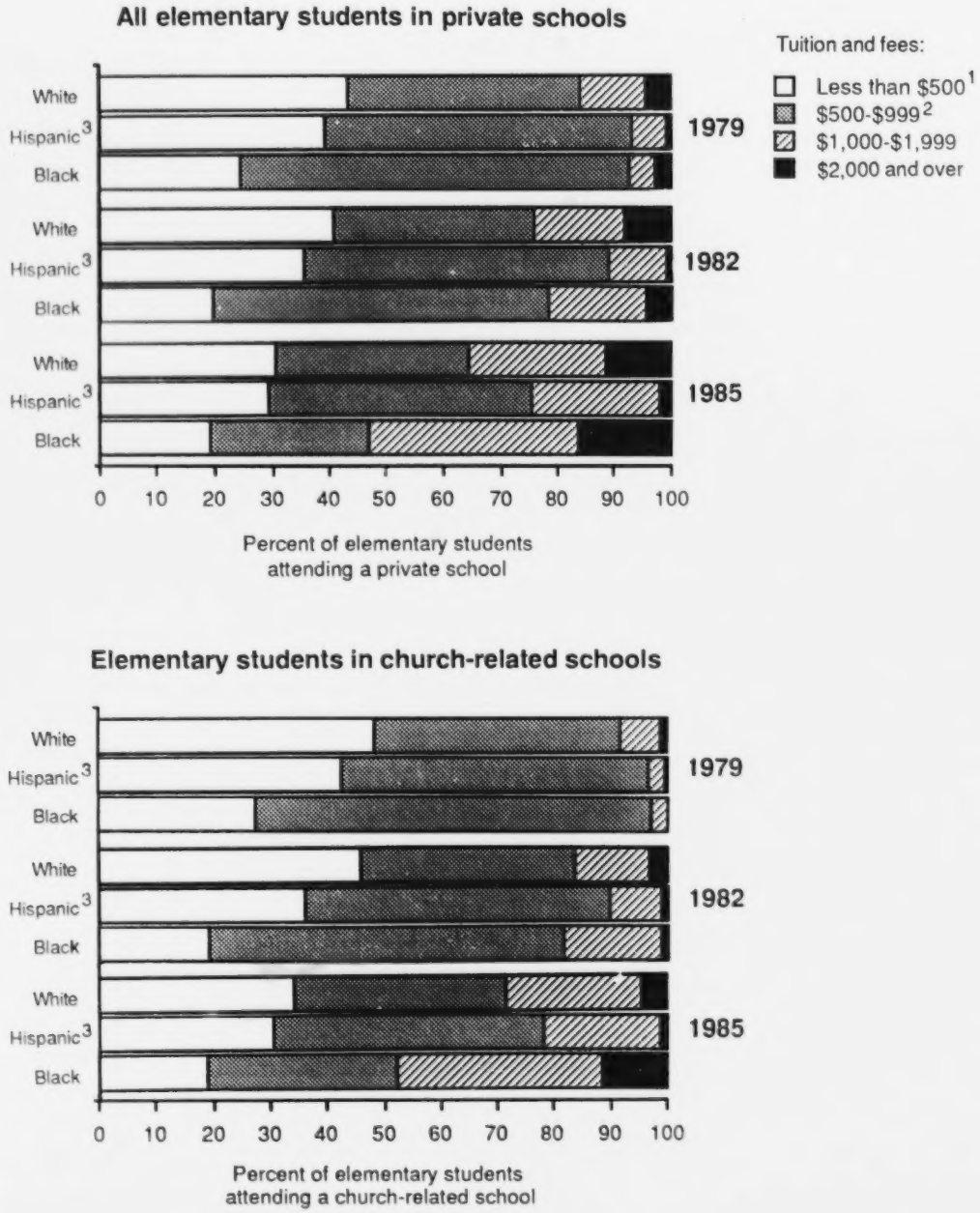
Private school implications

A major theme that can be seen in the recent enrollment trends for private schools is their continued, and in some respects increasing, diversity. For example:

- The proportion of students attending non-Catholic religiously-affiliated schools has been increasing, while the proportion attending Catholic schools, which have historically accounted for a very large majority of all students in church-related schools, has been declining. In 1983, approximately equal proportions of private schools were Catholic, other religiously-affiliated, and nonaffiliated (U.S. Department of Education, 1986a).

- The students attending private schools come from a variety of family backgrounds, particularly those attending church-related schools. The majority of private school students come from middle-income families.

FIGURE 3 -- Tuition and fees in private elementary schools, by race/ethnicity and control: 1985



1. Less than $300 for 1979.
2. $300 to $999 for 1979.
3. Hispanics may be of any race.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Private School Enrollment, Tuition, and Enrollment Trends: October 1979* and October 1982 and 1985 School Enrollment Supplements to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

Table 6

Tuition and fees in private schools by level and family income: 1982 and 1985

Family income	Proportion of students[1] with tuition and fees of: Elementary students (Grades 1–8) Less than $1,000	$1,000-$1,999	$2,000 and over	Secondary students (Grades 9–12) Less than $1,000	$1,000-$1,999	$2,000 and over
1985:						
Less than $7,500	78.2	18.5	3.4	24.1	60.2	15.7
$7,500 to $14,999	74.1	20.2	5.8			
$15,000 to $24,999	69.3	26.2	4.5	24.1	59.4	16.5
$25,000 to $34,999	65.5	27.3	7.3	11.9	63.9	24.2
$35,000 to $49,999	62.8	28.2	9.0	11.4	63.6	25.0
$50,000 to $74,999	58.2	23.9	18.1	7.1	56.5	36.3
$75,000 and over	29.5	20.8	49.8	1.8	32.5	65.8
1982:						
Less than $7,500	85.7	11.9	2.4	44.0	48.6	7.3
$7,500 to $14,999	81.9	16.4	1.8			
$15,000 to $24,999	81.0	15.3	3.7	27.7	61.9	10.4
$25,000 to $34,999	80.5	14.7	4.8	29.3	55.0	15.7
$35,000 to $49,999	75.4	14.6	9.9	29.8	52.8	17.4
$50,000 to $74,999	55.4	19.5	25.1			
$75,000 and over	28.7	31.8	39.5	12.1	54.8	33.2

[1] Percentage calculated on total number of students for whom tuition levels were reported. The nonresponse rate on the tuition item by income category ranged from 7 to 27 percent in 1985 (16 percent for elementary students and 13 percent for secondary students) and 4 to 26 percent in 1982 (11 percent for elementary students and 13 percent for secondary students).

NOTE: May not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 and October 1982 School Enrollment Supplements to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

- Some of the convergence in private school attendance rates that occurred in the 1970's, particularly among regions, has not continued into the 1980's. Children still are more likely to attend a private school if they live in the Northeast and North Central regions.

- However, the differences between central cities vs. suburbs and rural areas in the likelihood that a child will attend a private school have been narrowing. The decreases in private school attendance rates in the large cities and the increases elsewhere may be a reflection of the first trend mentioned above, the declining percentage of private school students in Catholic schools and the increasing proportion in other religiously-affiliated schools.

- One area in which diversity has not increased in recent years according to CPS data is the racial/ethnic backgrounds of private school students. In particular, private school enrollment rates for black students have declined since 1979, reversing the trends of the 1970's. Hispanic private school attendance patterns have not changed significantly in recent years.

Tuition levels for private schools increased considerably faster than the cost-of-living between 1979 and 1985, especially for church-related schools. It is unclear whether the tuition increases affected enrollment trends during this period.

- On the one hand, total enrollment in private schools was stable while public school enrollment was declining.

- On the other hand, black enrollment decreased, particularly in church-related schools, where the tuition increases were proportionately the greatest. The ratio of median family income for black private school students to black public school students increased from 1.95 in 1979 to 2.06 in 1985, which suggests an increasing differential in family income between black students in public and private schools.

- Other studies have shown that tuition levels do affect family choice of a school, and that the enrollment decisions of minority and lower-income families are more sensitive to tuition levels than white and higher-income families (Williams, Hancher, & Hutner, 1983; Noell, 1984).

Implications for American education

The proportion of all elementary and secondary students attending private schools has risen slightly in recent years, and was approximately 11 percent in 1985 according to data collected by the Bureau of the Census. The trends in private school enrollments revealed in CPS data suggest stability in the relative sizes of the two sectors of American elementary and secondary education—public and private.

- The fears of some observers in the 1970's of continued substantial declines in private school enrollments were not realized.

- Similarly, the perception, held by many, that private schools are expanding rapidly in the 1980's and absorbing large numbers of students from public schools is not confirmed by the national data on enrollment trends from CPS (Catterall, 1985).

- However, given the estimates of private school enrollment by the Center for Statistics, it is possible that the CPS survey misses substantial numbers of private school students. Furthermore, the national and regional figures could mask considerable variation across States and localities in the relative sizes of the public and private school sectors, and how they are changing.

Footnotes

[1]Private school enrollment rates are the proportions of particular population groups enrolled in private schools. Thus, the elementary private school enrollment rate for blacks would be the proportion of all black students in grades 1 to 8 attending a private school.

[2]Another estimate of private school enrollment was derived in the early 1980's using a combination of data sources—data from private school associations, and a comparison of the CS list of private schools in 21 areas with the number of private schools actually found by a canvas of those areas (Cooper & McLaughlin, 1983; Cooper, McLaughlin, & Manno, 1983; Cooper, 1985). The resulting estimates of total private school enrollment are also considerably higher than those from CPS—5.3 million for 1982-83 in K-12 (Cooper, 1985) as opposed to CPS's figure of 4.1 million in October 1982.

[3]Private school enrollment trends relative to public schools vary according to the data source consulted. The decennial census and the Current Population Survey showed private school enrollment declining more rapidly than public school enrollment during the 1970's, so that the percentage of students attending private schools also declined. Center for Statistics data showed private school enrollment declining less rapidly, and an increase in the proportion of private school enrollment (Williams et al., 1983).

[4]Using CPS data, Bianchi (1982) analyzed family income differences between public and private school students in two ways. She computed the ratio of median family incomes of public and private school students. She also calculated an index of dissimilarity between the income distributions of the two sectors, which provides a measure of what proportion of all students in public schools would have to come from higher income families if the family income distributions for public and private school students were to be the same. The income ratios varied erratically between .69 and .81 for elementary schools and .71 and .76 for high schools between 1970 and 1979.

The same measures were used to analyze changes in the relative family income distributions since 1979, and the results are shown below.

	School level			
	Elementary		Secondary	
Year	Ratio of public to private school median family income	Index of income dissimilarity between public and private schools	Ratio of public to private school median family income	Index of income dissimilarity between public and private schools
1979	71	23%	73	23%
1982	70	21%	70	23%
1985	68	24%	67	25%

[5]In tabulations prepared by the Bureau of the Census from the Current Population Survey, educational attainment is reported for the adult identified as the "householder" or "reference person," and only for children who are a relative of that person. In order to reduce the awkwardness of referring to such individuals as reference persons or householders, they are referred to in the text as "parents." In most cases, this individual is the child's parent.

Other characteristics increasing the likelihood of enrollment in private schools, based on data from the 1982 CPS survey, include fewer children in the household, "parents" in white collar occupations, and the presence of both spouses in the household (U.S. Department of Education, 1984a).

[6]Noell (1984) reports different patterns in the 1982 CPS data. Enrollment rates for blacks and Hispanics were higher than those of whites at upper income levels. However, in several cases these findings are based on a very small number of cases, so the estimates are not reliable. Furthermore, similar patterns did not appear in the 1979 data.

[7]The results presented in the text are based on changes in median tuition and fees. However, the same analysis was also conducted for mean tuition levels and the results were very similar. The percentage increases in median and mean tuition and fees in the two time periods—1979-1982 and 1982-1985—differed by no more than 3 percent except for elementary school students attending church-related schools for the 1979-82 period, where the increase was much larger for median tuition and fees (74 percent) than for the mean (58 percent).

[8]Over the entire period, 1979-1985, median family income increased 42 percent and public school expenditures per pupil increased by 62 percent.

For Catholic schools, the proportion of revenues coming from tuition and fees has been increasing as have operating expenses and the proportion of lay teachers (National Catholic Educational Association, 1986a, 1986b and 1986c), and all these may be contributing factors to increased tuition levels in Catholic schools. For Catholic high schools, average expenditures per pupil increased 12 percent between 1982-83 and 1985-86 and average tuition increased 34 percent in the same period (National Catholic Educational Association, 1986a).

[9]The analysis for tuition levels by race/ethnicity is limited to elementary school students, because the numbers of black and Hispanic secondary students in private schools are too small to produce reliable estimates of tuition levels for these groups. For the same reason, estimates for tuition in nonchurch-related elementary schools are not presented by race/ethnicity.

Appendix

The Center for Statistics, U.S. Department of Education and the Bureau of the Census both collect national data on private school enrollment and tuition. The methods used by the two agencies are somewhat different.

Center for Statistics

The Center for Statistics (CS) gathers data from private schools through its Private School Survey. The three most recent surveys were in 1980, 1983, and 1985. The data for 1985 were not yet available when this report went to press and the methodology utilized for 1980 and 1983 were not comparable.

The CS survey gathers data from schools, and until the 1983 survey, it was a universe rather than a sample survey. There was some concern that the lists of private schools which constituted the universe for the earlier surveys were not complete. Therefore, in order to increase the representativeness of the survey, two sampling frames were utilized in 1983—a list frame and an area frame.

An eligible school for the purposes of the CS surveys must meet three criteria: it includes a first grade or above; it is housed in a facility other than a private home; and it provides 4 or more hours of instruction per day for at least 160 days a year. Schools which only serve children below the first grade are excluded. As a result, CS underestimates the number of children attending private schools for nursery school and kindergarten, especially the former.

The Private School Surveys collect many types of institutional data about private schools, but are not designed to collect information about the characteristics of private school students. CS gathers data about teachers, programs, and school characteristics.

Bureau of the Census

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a sample survey of households conducted monthly, with a core of questions asked every month and other questions asked less frequently. The survey covers approximately 60,000 households each month, which contain about 150,000 individuals. The October CPS asks household informants about school enrollment and educational attainment of household members. Each October questions are asked about the current enrollment status of household members 3 years of age or older. For those enrolled in 12th grade and below, the question is asked whether the school attended is a public or private school. Additional items in the 1979, 1982, and 1985 surveys asked about the amount of tuition and fees paid in behalf of private school students and whether the private school was church-related or not.

Because the CPS is a household survey, it provides information about the characteristics of private school students and their families, such as race, educational attainment, and income. However, except for the limited questions on control and tuition added every 3 years since 1979, it does not provide data about the private schools children are attending. The specific questions on the October CPS are the following:

Is (the child) enrolled in public or private school?

What grade or year is (the child) attending?

If the school is identified as private, these additional questions were asked in 1979, 1982 and 1985:

Is the school (the child) attends church related or not church related?

What is the amount of tuition and fees for this school year at the school (the child) is attending? (Include only fees required for school entry; exclude room and board, books, uniforms, school supplies, and lunches.)

Reliability of Estimates

All comparisons cited in the text are statistically significant at the 0.05 level of significance. This means that the difference between two sample estimates is greater than 1.96 times the standard error of the difference.

Table A1

Standard errors for Table 1: Private school enrollment trends: 1970 to 1985

October of year	K-12 enrollment (In thousands)			Private school enrollment as a percentage of total K-12 enrollment
	Total	Public	Private	
1970	245	240	104	0.2
1971	245	241	102	0.2
1972	244	239	100	0.2
1973	243	239	98	0.2
1974	243	239	97	0.2
1975	243	238	98	0.2
1976	243	238	96	0.2
1977	242	237	98	0.2
1978	241	235	98	0.2
1979	240	234	95	0.2
1980	239	—	—	—
1981	257	251	102	0.2
1982	256	249	102	0.2
1983	256	249	104	0.2
1984	255	249	98	0.2
1985	256	249	104	0.2

—Not available.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *School Enrollment—Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 1984* (Current Population Reports, Series P–20, No. 404), 1985 and unpublished tabulations.

Table A2

Standard errors for Table 2: Proportion of all students attending private schools, by region and metropolitan status

Metropolitan status and region	Standard errors in percent (population size in thousands) for proportion of October enrollment, grades 1–12, attending private schools			
	1970	1979	1982	1985
U.S.	0.2 (48,665)	0.2 (42,981)	0.2 (41,534)	0.2 (40,845)
Region:				
Northeast	0.5 (10,877)	0.5 (9,734)	0.6 (8,774)	0.6 (8,224)
North Central	0.4 (14,000)	0.4 (11,198)	0.5 (10,743)	0.5 (10,365)
South	0.3 (15,083)	0.3 (14,482)	0.3 (13,782)	0.3 (14,218)
West	0.4 (8,337)	0.4 (7,567)	0.5 (8,235)	0.5 (8,038)
Metropolitan status				
Central city	0.5 (12,588)	0.5 (11,106)	0.5 (10,969)	0.5 (10,115)
Suburb	0.3 (17,905)	0.3 (17,329)	0.4 (16,599)	0.4 (16,885)
Nonmetrpolitan	0.2 (18,172)	0.3 (14,546)	0.3 (13,966)	0.3 (13,845)

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Private School Enrollment, Tuition, and Enrollment Trends: October 1979* (Current Population Reports, Series P–23, No. 121), 1982 and unpublished tabulations; Bianchi, S., Private School Enrollment: Trends and Debates, *Research in Sociology of Education and Socialization, 3*, 1982.

Table A3

Standard errors for Table 3: Enrollment rates in private elementary and secondary schools by race/ethnicity, family income, and control of school: October 1985

Family income	Standard errors in percent (population size in thousands) for the proportion of children attending private schools							
	All children				White			
	Total enrolled	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related	Total enrolled	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related
Total[2]	(40,206)	0.2	0.2	0.1	(32,482)	0.3	0.3	0.1
Less than $7,500	(5,713)	0.4	0.3	0.1	(3,228)	0.6	0.5	0.2
$7,500 to $14,999	(6,339)	0.4	0.4	0.1	(4,651)	0.6	0.5	0.2
$15,000 to $24,999	(8,470)	0.5	0.4	0.1	(6,955)	0.5	0.5	0.2
$25,000 to $34,999	(7,410)	0.6	0.6	0.2	(6,619)	0.6	0.6	0.2
$35,000 to $49,999	(6,274)	0.7	0.6	0.2	(5,572)	0.7	0.7	0.3
$50,000 and over	(4,568)	0.9	0.8	0.5	(4,221)	0.9	0.8	0.5

Family income	Black				Hispanic[3]			
	Total enrolled	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related	Total enrolled	Total private[1]	Church-related	Nonchurch-related
Total[2]	(6,325)	0.4	0.3	0.2	(3,908)	0.6	0.6	0.1
Less than $7,500	(2,253)	0.4	0.3	0.2	(1,026)	0.9	0.8	0.4
$7,500 to $14,999	(1,441)	0.7	0.6	0.2	(1,047)	1.1	1.1	—
$15,000 to $24,999	(1,262)	0.9	0.7	0.4	(889)	1.5	1.4	0.2
$25,000 to $34,999	(590)	1.8	1.6	0.6	(503)	2.2	2.1	0.7
$35,000 to $49,999	(473)	1.9	1.5	1.0	(218)	3.7	3.7	—
$50,000 and over	(150)	4.7	3.8	2.8	(124)	5.8	5.8	—

— Not available.
[1] Includes some students for whom control of the private school was not reported.
[2] Includes some students for whom income was not reported.
[3] Hispanics may be of any race.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 Supplement to Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

Table A4

Standard errors for Table 4: Tuition and fees in private schools, by level and control: October 1985

Level and control of school	Total enrolled[1] (in thousands)	Standard errors						
		Proportion of students[1] with tuition and fees of:					Median tuition and fees	Mean tuition and fees
		Less than $500	$500-$999	$1,000-$1,499	$1,500-$1,999	$2,000- and over		
Elementary[2] (Grades 1–8)	2,543	1.5	1.5	1.3	0.8	1.1	$ 25	$ 36
Church-related	2,211	1.6	1.7	1.4	0.8	0.8	23	22
Nonchurch-related	326	2.3	2.2	3.6	2.3	4.4	212	179
Secondary[2] (Grades 9–12)	1,026	0.8	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.2	32	87
Church-related	859	0.8	1.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	42	56
Nonchurch-related	166	2.0	2.2	3.8	4.0	5.6	852	355

[1] Based on total number of students for whom tuition levels were reported. The nonresponse rate on the tuition item for the categories in the table ranged from 10 to 18 percent. The response rate was higher for nonchurch-related schools than church-related schools.
[2] Includes some students for whom control of private school was not reported.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

Table A5

Standard errors for Table 5: Median private school tuition and fees, by level, control, region, and metropolitan status: 1985

Region and metropolitan status	Standard errors (population size in thousands) for median tuition and fees											
	Elementary students (Grades 1–8)						Secondary students (Grades 9–12)					
	Total[1]		Church-related		Nonchurch-related		Total[1]		Church-related		Nonchurch-related	
U.S.	$25	(2,543)	$23	(2,211)	$212	(326)	$32	(1,026)	$42	(859)	$852	(166)
Region:												
Northeast	26	(655)	25	(565)	500	(921)	58	(350)	61	(280)	—	(70)
North Central	35	(754)	34	(724)	—	(34)	75	(284)	73	(271)	—	(13)
South	37	(701)	43	(559)	257	(139)	98	(242)	67	(183)	—	(59)
West	31	(430)	45	(365)	—	(66)	128	(150)	227	(123)	—	(27)
Metropolitan status:												
Central city	42	(805)	35	(721)	436	(82)	56	(364)	55	(321)	—	(43)
Suburb	30	(1,234)	35	(1,056)	244	(176)	83	(486)	55	(392)	1,302	(96)
Nonmetropolitan	61	(505)	48	(436)	—	(68)	113	(176)	62	(147)	—	(30)

—Not available.
[1] Includes some students for whom control of the private school was not reported.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 School Enrollment Supplement to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

Table A6

Standard errors for Table 6: Tuition and fees in private schools by level and family income: 1982 and 1985

Family income	Standard errors in percent (population size in thousands) for proportion of students[1] with tuition and fees of:							
	Elementary students (Grades 1–8)				Secondary students (Grades 9–12)			
	Total number[1]	Less than $1,000	$1,000-$1,999	$2,000 and over	Total number[1]	Less than $1,000	$1,000-$1,999	$2,000 and over
1985:								
Less than $7,500	(119)	6.2	5.8	2.7	(83)	7.1	8.2	6.1
$7,500 to $14,999	(243)	4.6	4.2	2.5				
$15,000 to $24,999	(446)	3.6	3.4	1.6	(133)	5.6	6.5	4.9
$25,000 to $34,999	(634)	3.1	2.9	1.7	(194)	3.5	5.2	4.7
$35,000 to $49,999	(522)	3.5	3.2	2.1	(264)	3.0	4.5	4.1
$50,000 to $74,999	(306)	4.6	4.0	3.6	(168)	3.0	5.8	5.6
$75,000 and over	(207)	5.2	4.6	5.7	(114)	1.9	6.7	6.8
1982:								
Less than $7,500	(126)	5.1	4.7	2.2	(109)	7.2	7.3	3.8
$7,500 to $14,999	(342)	3.4	3.3	1.2				
$15,000 to $24,999	(679)	2.5	2.3	1.2	(202)	4.8	5.2	3.3
$25,000 to $34,999	(647)	2.6	2.3	1.4	(229)	4.6	5.0	3.7
$35,000 to $49,999	(403)	3.5	2.9	2.4	(161)	5.5	6.0	4.5
$50,000 to $74,999	(195)	5.8	4.7	5.1	(199)	3.5	5.4	5.1
$75,000 and over	(129)	6.5	6.7	7.1				

[1] Based on total number of students for whom tuition levels were reported. The nonresponse rate on the tuition item by income category ranged from 7 to 27 percent in 1985 (16 percent for elementary students and 13 percent for secondary students) and 4 to 26 percent in 1982 (11 percent for elementary students and 13 percent for secondary students).
NOTE: May not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October 1985 and October 1982 School Enrollment Supplements to the Current Population Survey, unpublished tabulations.

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